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REMARKS

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8 and 14-32 and objected to claim 13. Applicant amended claims 17, 8, 14, 16, 26 and 29; cancelled claim 13 and added new claims 33-53. Claims 1-8 and 14-53 remain. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 8, 14, 15 and 21-32 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 5,997,004 to Braun *et al.* ("Braun"). With respect to claims 8 and 21-23, independent claim 8 now recites, *inter alia*, that the extension has a "second section extending axially from" a first section. Support for such a modification appears, for example, in Figure 4 of the disclosure as originally filed. Braun fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. As seen for example in Figure 2, the extension (40) of Braun merely extends radially. None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification.

With respect to claims 14, 15, 24 and 25, Applicant cancelled dependent claim 13 and inserted such features to independent claim 14 since the Office Action stated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In light of the foregoing, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

With respect to claims 26-28, independent claim 26 now recites, *inter alia*, that the fastener is "rigidly" mounted to the body. Support for such a modification appears, for example,

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in paragraph 32 of the disclosure as originally filed. Braun fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The fastener (71) of Braun rigidly secures to the collar (72) not the brush seal (30). As described in column 4, lines 28 and 29 of Braun, the hole is "configured to slidingly accept a pin 70 that extends from a collar 72." None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification.

With respect to claims 29-32, independent claim 29 now recites, *inter alia*, that the slot has a "depth" and the slot is elongated "transverse" to the depth. Support for such a modification appears, for example, in Figure 4. Braun fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The hole (68) in Braun has a depth. However, any "elongation" that the Examiner believes that the hole exhibits is in the direction of the depth. The hole in Braun is not elongated transverse to the depth. None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8, 14-27 and 29-32 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,622,490 to Ingistov ("Ingistov"). With respect to claims 1-6, 8 and 21-23, independent claims 1 and 8 both now recite, *inter alia*, that the bristles are "secured to" the body. Support for such a modification appears, for example, in paragraph 22 of the original disclosure. Ingistov fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The Examiner identified reference character 32" (*see* Figure 6) as the body. However, the bristles (134) do not secure to the "body" (32") in Ingistov. Rather, Figure 6 shows the bristles secured to the bristle holder (105) and the clamping plate (106). None of the remaining references provide a motivation for such a modification.

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With respect to claims 7 and 16-20, Applicant inserted the feature from allowable claim 13 into independent claims 7 and 16. Claims 7 and 16 both now recite, *inter alia*, that the bristles “engage[e] said first and second components.” Support for such a modification appears, for example, in original claim 13 and paragraph 22. Ingistov fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. None of the remaining references provide a motivation for such a modification.

With respect to claims 14, 15, 24 and 25, Applicant cancelled dependent claim 13 and inserted such features to independent claim 14 since the Office Action stated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With respect to claims 26 and 27, independent claim 26 now recites, *inter alia*, that the fastener is “rigidly” mounted to the body. As discussed above, support for such a modification appears, for example, in paragraph 32 of the disclosure as originally filed. Ingistov fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The pin (126) of Ingistov rigidly secures to the inner barrel member (18) not the backing plate (108). As described in column 7, lines 49-51 of Braun, “the pin 126 ... is positioned slideably in an opening 129 in backing [plate] 108.” None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification.

With respect to claims 29-32, independent claim 29 now recites, *inter alia*, that the slot has a “depth” and the slot is elongated “transverse” to the depth. As discussed above, support for such a modification appears, for example, in Figure 4. Ingistov fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The hole (129) in Ingistov has a depth. However, any “elongation” that the Examiner believes that the hole exhibits is in the direction of the depth. The hole in Ingistov is

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not elongated transverse to the depth. None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification. In light of the foregoing, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant cancelled claim 13 and inserted such features into independent claims 7, 14 and 16. Applicants request that the Examiner indicate the allowability of these claims in the next Office Action.

Other Amendments

Applicant made one correction to the specification. Specifically, Applicant modified paragraph 42 to correct a reference character. Such change does not introduce new matter.

Newly Added Claims

Applicants added new claims 33-53. The newly added claims do not introduce new matter. Support for these claims appears in the disclosure as originally filed. For example, support for claims 33 and 39 appears in Figure 1; support for claims 34, 40, 48 and 51 appears in original claim 13 and paragraph 22; support for claims 35-38, 41, 42, 44-47, 49, 50, 52 and 53 appears in paragraph 22; and support for claim 43 appears in paragraph 42. The newly added claims define inventions that are patentable over the cited references.

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Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement and rejection. Applicant solicits the allowance of Claims 4-17 at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,




Brian J. Hamilla
Registration Number 38,482
Attorney for Applicants

Pratt & Whitney
Patent Department
Mail Stop 132-13
400 Main Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
Voice: 860.557.1089

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Marianne S. Carello